

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The mechanism according to claim ~~[[1]]~~13, further comprising:

said tape path including a first portion that is generally parallel to said axis, a second portion that is generally perpendicular to said axis, and a third portion that is generally parallel to said axis.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The mechanism according to claim 12, further comprising:~~ A tape guide mechanism in a storage device for defining a tape path comprising:

a cartridge reel for supplying tape to a take-up reel;

a plurality of flanged guides located remotely from said cartridge and take-up reels;

a non-flanged post guide located proximate to said take-up reel for increasing a length of said tape path and for permitting said plurality of flanged guides to be located remotely from said cartridge and take-up reels;

wherein flanged guides are not located in proximity to said cartridge or take-up reels;

said cartridge reel being bisected by a longitudinal axis of said tape path;

a pair of read/write heads symmetrically located about said axis;

said plurality of flanged guides including a first pair of flanged guides located proximate to a first one of said read/write heads and a second pair of flanged guides located proximate to a second one of said read/write head;

said tape path including a portion that starts at said first pair of flanged guides and ends at said second pair of flanged guides; and

said portion of said tape path being symmetrical about said axis.

14. (Previously Presented) The mechanism according to claim 13, further comprising:

said first pair of flanged guides being adjacent to each other; and

said second pair of flanged guides being adjacent to each other.

15. (Currently Amended) The mechanism according to claim ~~[[12]]~~13, further comprising:

said non-flanged post guide being non-spinning.

16. (Currently Amended) The mechanism according to claim ~~[[12]]~~13, further comprising:

said plurality of flanged guides being grooved.

17. (Original) A tape guide mechanism in a storage device for defining a tape path comprising:

a cartridge reel for supplying tape to a take-up reel;

a plurality of grooved flanged guides located remotely from said cartridge and take-up reels;

a non-spinning non-flanged post guide located proximate to said take-up reel for increasing a length of said tape path and for permitting said plurality of flanged guides to be located remotely from said cartridge and take-up reels;

wherein flanged guides are not located in proximity to said cartridge or take-up reels;

said cartridge reel being bisected by a longitudinal axis of said tape path;

a pair of read/write heads symmetrically located about said axis;

said plurality of flanged guides including a first pair of adjacent flanged guides located proximate to a first one of said read/write heads and a second pair of adjacent flanged guides located proximate to a second one of said read/write head;

said tape path including a portion that starts at said first pair of flanged guides and ends at said second pair of flanged guides; and

said portion of said tape path being symmetrical about said axis.

18. (Canceled)